

The Rufford Foundation Final Report

Congratulations on the completion of your project that was supported by The Rufford Small Grants Foundation.

We ask all grant recipients to complete a Final Report Form that helps us to gauge the success of our grant giving. We understand that projects often do not follow the predicted course but knowledge of your experiences is valuable to us and others who may be undertaking similar work. Please be as honest as you can in answering the questions – remember that negative experiences are just as valuable as positive ones if they help others to learn from them.

Please complete the form in English and be as clear and concise as you can. We will ask for further information if required. If you have any other materials produced by the project, particularly a few relevant photographs, please send these to us separately.

Please submit your final report to jane@rufford.org.

Thank you for your help.

Josh Cole, Grants Director

Grant Recipient Details	
Your name	Kamdoum Ngute Alain Senghor
Project title	Conservation of the threatened avifauna of Mount Mbam forest, Cameroon: An important site for Bannerman's turaco <i>Tauraco bannermani</i>
RSG reference	17663-1
Reporting period	November 2015 – November 2016
Amount of grant	£4,893
Your email address	kamdoum.senghor@gmail.com
Date of this report	4 th November 2016

1. Please indicate the level of achievement of the project's original objectives and include any relevant comments on factors affecting this.

Objective	Not achieved	Partially achieved	Fully achieved	Comments
Generate quantitative population, diversity and distribution data for the avifauna of Mount Mbam			x	Data on birds have been successfully collected and processed. Significant part of these data was used for MSc thesis write-up on avian diversity, distribution and conservation.
Assess habitat characteristics, and identify threats to the conservation of birds of Mount Mbam forest and associated habitats			x	Data on geographic location, land use / land cover types and anthropogenic factors were successfully collected and analysed. Six vegetation types were classified, constituting main habitat types. Main threats to biodiversity were identified and assessed. The major threats were uncontrolled bushfires for clearing grazing lands, poaching, overgrazing, illegal and unsustainable exploitation of the threatened African cherry's (<i>Prunus africana</i>) bark for medicine.
Compare population abundance in different habitat types, in order to describe suitable habitat types for species of global conservation concern.			x	Data on species (diversity, abundance and density), land cover and threats were used to perform ordination and regressions analyses.
Produce full assessment of conservation status and needs of birds of the Mount Mbam site.		x		This is still in course of achievement, as there is a need for some specific considerations, added to baseline quantitative data on population, habitats and threats.

<p>Engage with locals in the project area and stakeholders, through conservation education and awareness workshops, in order to develop a conservation strategy for site based on the above results.</p>		x	<p>Engagement was performed through series of conservation education campaigns in schools, and awareness workshops with local administration, stakeholders and villagers. In addition, Mefire Ahmadou and Keran Sevidzem both from local community, acting as field assistant/guide, received training in bird survey and ecological data collection during fieldwork.</p>
<p>Recommendations drawn from this work will be instrumental in the development of a simple management plan for a wider management project for the site.</p>		x	<p>The development of strong and viable community-based forest management institutions is a must step in forging ahead a viable community-based forest conservation programme. Creation of wildlife sanctuary and establishment of participatory forest management remain among the most comprehensive approach for forest and other natural resource management in this area, as proposed by delegate and technicians of the Cameroonian Ministry in charge of Forestry and Wildlife (MINFOF) and local stakeholders.</p>
<p>Contribute to the update of Cameroon's National Biodiversity Strategy Action Plan (NBSAP) and the global biodiversity conservation priority areas.</p>		x	<p>This is still in course of achievement, as an up-to-date list of species constituting the avifauna of Mount Mbam, threats to conservation and proposed measures have been channelled through the administrative authorities in charge of Forestry and Wildlife, in order to include it in the upcoming version of the NBSAP document.</p> <p>However, the site account will only be complete if the status of other taxa is included.</p>

<p>Build lasting research collaborations between local and international NGOs and academic institutions.</p>	<p>x</p>		<p>Collaboration has been established with The Mfombo Foundation, local NGO interested in nature conservation and community welfare in the study area, which received a RSG for a project about the conservation of the Bannerman's Turaco. I participated in ecological data collection on a voluntary basis ; I am also planning to contact BirdLife International in order to make suggestions and update the account and status of the site in the Important Bird Areas' monitoring database, and create site support groups for monitoring, since there is no active BirdLife International local partner in Cameroon at the moment.</p>
<p>Present findings at symposia and international ornithological conferences, with results published in peer-reviewed journals</p>	<p>x</p>		<p>An abstract about conservation prospects from the project was accepted for poster presentation at the 3rd African Congress on Conservation Biology (September 2016), but I failed to attend because of unavailability of funding. However, an application for poster presentation and internship has just been submitted to the upcoming Student Conference on Conservation Science (Cambridge, 2017) which is fully funded for Africans, if bursary is secured.</p> <p>A newsletter about this project and fieldwork was published in December 2015 in <i>African Conservation Telegraph</i>.</p> <p>Two theses on avian diversity ecology and conservation have been prepared and submitted in partial fulfilment for award of MSc; a couple of short communications for newsletters and research papers for peer reviewed journals are also in preparation.</p>

Identify priorities for further research and conservation management activities		x	<p>A project proposal on the “diversity, distribution, and conservation status of the large mammals of Mt Mbam” is in course of submission for grant award by Tiwa Tsague Pauline (fellow colleague), following my recommendations upon return from the field. She also accompanied me during result presentation, workshops and sensitisation campaign in communities, as a result of good collaboration and team building.</p>
			<p>Moreover, an isolated population of a threatened primate (<i>Colobus satanas</i>) was ‘discovered’ during this project fieldwork, and a project proposal is being developed by a colleague and me in order to determine distribution, population and conservation status, and bring more evidences on the necessity to engage strong conservation actions at the site.</p>
			<p>A wide diversity of endemic birds, amphibians, reptiles and butterflies was also observed in the area during fieldwork, this form good opportunity for research and priority for conservation. Moreover, there is also a high need for assessing population status of bird species of global conservation concern as well as the availability of resources (food and nesting sites), prior to develop workable conservation strategies and action plans.</p>

2. Please explain any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled (if relevant).

Power supply was a big challenge both during fieldwork at the mountain as well as in the adjacent communities, since the area is very remote, and its cloudy nature does not favour supply from solar energy kits. We had to purchase power banks and a lot of spare

rechargeable batteries that were regularly recharged at the nearest town (which is one-day travel from the study area).

3. Briefly describe the three most important outcomes of your project.

- An up-to-date list of all bird species (including many 'first records') constituting Mount Mbam avian community, is now fully available, as well as information about their various habitats, distribution and conservation status; and data have been used in partial fulfilment for the award of two MSc degrees.

- Research / conservation priorities and needs have been identified and recorded, and recommendations for imminent actions were proposed to stakeholders. The success can be perceived as some fellow colleagues are developing project proposals based on information from this study; local custodians and administrative authorities are well edified on the conservation needs and are now working together to create village patrols and committees that will help in the implementation of some actions and measures, they are also looking forward to start procedures that will end up in the legal recognition and protection of the site.

- The account and status of the site will be upgraded in the BirdLife International's database, with respect to criteria for setting out Important Birds Area, Key Biodiversity Areas and Alliance for Zero Extinction sites; based on newly recorded species of global conservation concern. Suggestions will be made to national authorities and to BirdLife International in view of that.

4. Briefly describe the involvement of local communities and how they have benefitted from the project (if relevant).

The fact that workshops were held prior to data fieldwork meant that the locals were got engaged in a participatory approach from the beginning to the end and one could feel the sense of the local administrators appropriating the results of the work. Locals (students, hunters and others villagers) from all the adjacent communities have been deeply educated and sensitised about the importance of biodiversity, the threats to birds and ecosystems. Two field guides/ assistants, Mefire Ahmadou and Keran Sevidzem both from local communities received training in bird identification and ecological monitoring; and this work funded by The Rufford Small Grants Foundation has greatly enhanced their understanding of bird conservation issues.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

There is a need to extend this work to other taxa that are present in the area, and on various conservation aspects, as to bring more evidences and information that will help to undertake site-based conservation actions. In view of this, project proposals are under development, to be submitted for grants, by fellow colleagues, and definitely I will be part of the team. I am also looking forward developing a proposal for the 2nd Rufford Small Grant to consolidate results from this present study and initiate building site support groups with main purpose to help in the monitoring of this IBA and surrounding ones.

6. How do you plan to share the results of your work with others?

Results will form part of my MSc thesis that will be defended in the months ahead. I intend to present at the Student Conference on Conservation Science in Cambridge (2017), if bursary for attendance is granted, results will be submitted to peer reviewed journals. Results will also be presented in BirdLife International newsletter and IBA monitoring database.

7. Timescale: Over what period was the RSG used? How does this compare to the anticipated or actual length of the project?

November 2015 – October 2016 - 12 months as planned

8. Budget: Please provide a breakdown of budgeted versus actual expenditure and the reasons for any differences. All figures should be in £ sterling, indicating the local exchange rate used.

Item	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
One Hand-held GARMIN 60@ GPS	220	200	-20	The model was cheaper than expected, since we had a better deal with another seller
A Digital Camera with 20X Zoom	275	270	-5	
Binoculars	275	350	+75	I bought extra pair of binoculars for field assistant

LASER rangefinder	200	175	-25	The model was cheaper than expected, since we had a better deal with another seller
Bird Identification Guide (Birds of Western Africa: Second Edition Second edition by Borrow & Demey)	35	50	+15	
Stereo audio recorder & speaker	125	130	+5	
2 kits of Tent, sleeping mat & sleeping bag	220	300	+80	
Transportations- 5 trips	110	200	+90	Transport fair doubled during raining season, and we needed to hire bikes for community visits
Field/Research assistant (x150 days)	495	450	-45	
Feeding allowance (for applicant)	350	450	+100	Food was provided to research assistants and field guide
500 Posters (laminated Pictures of threatened birds and posters on research results)	1100	900	-200	Printing of poster was cheaper than expected
100 T-shirts	300	275	-25	Bargained and obtained a discount for printing of T-shirts
Organisation of Workshops, Sensitization/school lectures (x8)	880	550	-330	Special arrangements were concluded with some locals, through the help of the local administrative authorities and this helped us to significantly reduce costs and save some money
Report preparation (x10 Hard copies)	165	170	+5	
Contingency	143	420	+277	Costs for communication, money transfer for the purchase of some equipment in the UK, shipment and custom fees were not included.
TOTAL	£4,893	£4,890	£ -3	

9. Looking ahead, what do you feel are the important next steps?

Complete site account with data and information on other taxa of conservation concern (primates, large mammals, amphibians and reptiles, insects and plants) and formulate an



evidence based conservation strategy for this site that will balance the needs of local communities as well as conservation objectives and on which basis its can be attributed a national recognition and protection status. Create site support groups and build their capacity in conservation monitoring activities.

10. Did you use the RSGF logo in any materials produced in relation to this project? Did the RSGF receive any publicity during the course of your work?

I have used the RSGF logo in all promotional materials (t-shirts, posters of birds and results, and laminated pictures), and in slides during the presentation of research project at the University. RSGF will also be acknowledged in all communications (thesis, talks, posters and research papers) during any scientific event. Links about RSGF's activities from the website, that regularly published on Facebook page are being shared in our various networks.

11. Any other comments?

The RSGF was of very great importance for the present study. I highly appreciate this support and am very grateful for that. Receipt of the grant has made a fantastic contribution to my personal development as I was able to collect quality data without any compromise due to financial of material limitations; also it has contributed to research and conservation in my country.

It also enabled the largest systematic survey of birds in Mount Mbam, to date, resulting in valuable baseline data for many species. The collaborative approach with fellow research students from my University, and their endeavours in developing project proposals for grant application in view of pursuing research and conservation actions in order to value and safeguard this site and its biodiversity also greatly exceeded our expectations. None of this would have been possible without receipt of the RSG, thank you!

Project Pictures





